

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: October 13, 2016
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council, the staff, and the community:

Council Business

- *Upcoming agenda items* – Here are some items you can expect to see on your agenda for later this month or in November:
 - *Mansfield Middle School Tennis Courts* – Staff is obtaining estimates to restore the courts. Most contractors are now recommending a different surface to obtain a longer life span for the courts; this will increase the cost of restoration.
 - *Town Attorney Opinion re Regulating Political Speech at Transfer Station Property* – The Town Attorney will assist you with your discussion of this item. Until the Council has discussed this matter, staff will hold off on enforcing the terms of this policy.
 - *Tax Appeal Settlement with OAP Holdings, LLC (Renwood Apartments)* – The Town Attorney is seeking approval of a tentative agreement reached in court to settle this appeal.
 - *Purchase of Development Rights for Mountain Dairy Farm IV* – Staff will recommend that the Council refer the purchase of development rights to Planning and Zoning for review under CGS §8-24, and schedule a public hearing to solicit public opinion on the acquisition.
 - *Renovations to Old Eagleville Schoolhouse* – Staff has been approached by potential donors looking to extensively renovate the old schoolhouse to provide dedicated space for Community School of the Arts activities, particularly music. Staff will present the concept to the Council, and will seek its endorsement before proceeding with next steps.
- *Amendments to Housing Code Fee Schedule* – My office is scheduling the first meeting of the Ordinance Development and Review Committee to review this proposal.
- *Bond Referendum for Mansfield Middle School Gymnasium Project* – I wanted to let the Council know that we are providing notice of the November 8th referendum through a variety of means, including:
 - Direct mail of explanatory text to residents and businesses
 - Signs at polling places and municipal buildings
 - Mansfield Minute
 - Website
 - Press release to local media
 - QNotify email blast
 - Channel 191

Departmental Reports

- *Town Manager's Office*
 - *ICMA Conference* – Late last month, Assistant Town Manager Maria Capriola and I attended the International City Management Conference (ICMA) in Kansas City. I attended a number of sessions pertaining to leadership, organizational development, policy facilitation, and town/university relations, and will provide a more detailed report to

the Personnel Committee. The ICMA conference is the premier local government management conference in the nation; Ms. Capriola and I appreciate your support of our professional development activities.

- *Water Conservation Notice* – UConn's water system continues to be in a Stage IV Water Supply Emergency because seasonally dry conditions have reduced area streamflows. While streamflows are starting to recover, they are not yet stable enough to downgrade the rating. Stage IV includes the same mandatory and voluntary water conservation measures as the Stage III water supply alert. UCONN continues to enlist our support and cooperation to conserve water until further notice. The University's water supply remains adequate to meet current and forecasted system demands and any emergency needs such as firefighting. Per UCONN's Water Supply Plan, the University is committed to operating an environmentally sustainable water supply system. Given current streamflow conditions and rainfall forecast, they are asking students, faculty, staff, and off campus municipal, commercial, and residential users to be conscientious of their daily water use and to conserve water. The following mandatory conservation measures remain in effect:
 - Lawn watering for all University and non-University users is limited to four hours or less per day and only between the hours of 5 to 9 AM and 7 to 9 PM. Athletic fields will be allowed up two hours of water per day during the same hours.
 - Filling of public or private pools must be provided via water delivered from another source.
 - Washing of motor vehicles is banned. The University's wash bay will be closed until further notice.
 - The use of ornamental or display fountains is banned.
 - The use of water for washing and wetting down streets, sidewalks, driveways or parking areas is banned unless required by the local public health authority.
 - The use of UConn water for dust control at construction sites is banned. Contractors are required to provide water for dust control from off-site.
 - The use of hydrant sprinkler caps is banned.
 - Water main flushing will only be used to address water quality issues.

The following voluntary conservation measures remain in effect:

- Take shorter showers.
- Run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads.
- Use water only as needed when washing dishes, shaving, and brushing teeth.
- Avoid power washing buildings and washing vehicles with public water.
- Raise the thermostat in UConn buildings, particularly when leaving at night.
- Immediately report leaky fixtures in UConn buildings to Facilities Operations (486-3113).

UConn is actively monitoring conditions and will continue to provide updates as conditions change.

Upcoming Events

- *Mansfield Pup Crawl* – Join the Mansfield Downtown Partnership and the Friends of Mansfield Animal Shelter this Saturday at 9:30 AM on Betsy Paterson Square for the Mansfield Pup Crawl – Fall Edition! Enjoy a guided walk through Downtown Storrs with fun and educational stops along the way. This event is free, however a suggested donation of \$20 to benefit the Friends of Mansfield Animal Shelter is encouraged. Please be prepared to walk over varied terrain and to pick up after your dog, if needed. All dogs must be on a leash and be up-to-date with their shots. This event is part of The Last Green Valley's Walktober. More info: mansfieldct.gov/pupcrawl.
- *Storrs Center Stroll* – UConn Alumni will host their third Storrs Center Stroll on Sunday, October 23 as part of Huskies Forever Weekend. This free, family-friendly event is open to the public. Enjoy samples from

businesses, giveaways, UConn performing groups, family-friendly activities, and more. Meet special guests including Jonathan the Husky mascot. Look for the Student Alumni Association Prize Patrol roaming around with giveaways! For a list of participating businesses and a schedule of events, please [click here](#).

- *Storrs Farmers Market* - Storrs Farmers Market begins new hours on October 15. The Market will be open every Saturday from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM through Thanksgiving. The Market takes place on the front lawn of the Mansfield Town Hall. Everything sold at Storrs Farmers Market is grown and produced right here in eastern Connecticut. In fact, the average distance from farm to market is under 10 miles! Save the date: Storrs Winter Farmers Market at the Mansfield Public Library starts Saturday, Dec. 10. More info: storrsfarmersmarket.org
- *Trick-or-Treat in Downtown Storrs* – Calling all goblins, ghouls, and ghosts! The Mansfield Downtown Partnership will host Trick-or-Treating in Downtown Storrs on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. Participating businesses will have treats for costumed kids. This event is free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Trick-or-Treating is rain or shine. At 5:00 PM, keep the fun going at the Mansfield Community Center at their Annual Halloween Party and Trick-a-Trunk (5:00 - 6:30 PM)! This event is free and open to all ages but is geared towards children age 10 and under. More info: mansfieldct.gov/halloween
- *Winter Welcome* - Save the date! The Fourth Annual Winter Welcome will be Saturday, Dec. 3. This free community event is presented by the Mansfield Downtown Partnership. More info: mansfieldct.gov/winterwelcome.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Personnel Committee, October 17, 2016, 5:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting, October 17, 2016, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town-University Relations Committee, October 18, 2016, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, October 18, 2016, 6:30 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Open Space Preservation Committee, October 18, 2016, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, October 19, 2016, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Transportation Advisory Committee, October 20, 2016, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, October 21, 2016, 8:30 AM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council Meeting, October 24, 2016, 2016, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*